

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1. (Currently Amended) A game system comprising:

a display unit for displaying a game screen;

an input unit for supplying a signal corresponding to a player's operation; and

a game controller for executing a predetermined card game using trump cards on the game screen of the display unit with reference to the signal supplied from the input unit, wherein

the game controller includes:

a card deciding device for deciding a plurality of cards to be displayed on the game screen in a matrix,

a betting device for setting a number of lines of a plurality of lines formed by the cards arranged in a predetermined direction on the game screen, each of the set lines being an effective line, the number of effective lines being set depending on the value of a play which a player sets by operating the input device, the betting device increasing the number of effective lines as the play value increases, and

a dividend controlling device for controlling a dividend for the player according to a combination of the cards on any of the effective lines and a combination of the cards in a direction different from the direction of the effective lines, wherein

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

the effective lines being are set in only one direction of either a vertical direction or a horizontal direction of the matrix, and

the dividend controlling device being is arranged to produce the dividend when a successful hand is formed on any of the effective lines in the card game using the trump cards, and also to produce the dividend or change a previously produced dividend when a maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and a predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines at least in a diagonal direction to the effective lines or in a direction perpendicular to the effective lines.

2-7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to produce the dividend or change the previously produced dividend when a predetermined number of the cards of the same mark or the cards of the same number is placed at least in the diagonal direction or in the direction perpendicular to the effective lines.

9. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, further comprising:

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

a selecting device for selecting reception of the dividend or a chance of increasing the dividend when the dividend controlling device produces the dividend according to a player's instruction given by the input unit; and

a dividend increase controlling device for increasing the dividend when an outcome of the game satisfies a predetermined condition while performing a predetermined game, when the above chance is selected.

10. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 9, further comprising:

a discriminating device for checking whether or not to advance the count associated with a chance of increasing the dividend based on the outcome of the game every time a game using a plurality of the cards placed in the matrix is performed; and

a probability controlling device for increasing a probability of achieving the outcome satisfying the predetermined condition in the game performed by the dividend increase controlling device when the dividend controlling device produces the dividend as the above count reaches a predetermined value.

11. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 10, wherein the dividend increase controlling device makes the player select a predetermined number of the cards from the plurality of the cards in the game, and

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

executes the game for deciding victory or defeat according to whether the selected cards satisfy a predetermined condition or not, and the probability controlling device increases the probability by increasing the number of the cards selectable by the player.

12. (Currently Amended) A game controlling method for executing the following procedures by a computer provided in a game system:

a procedure of deciding a plurality of trump cards displayed on a game screen in a matrix,

a procedure of setting a number of lines of a plurality of lines formed by the cards arranged in a predetermined direction on the game screen, each of the set lines being an effective line, the number of effective lines being set depending on the value of a play which a player sets by operating the input device, the betting device increasing the number of effective lines as the play value increases, and

a procedure of controlling a dividend for the player according to a combination of the cards on any of the effective lines and a combination of the cards in a direction different from the direction of the effective lines, wherein

effective lines are set in only one direction of either a vertical direction or a horizontal direction of the matrix, and

in the procedure of controlling the dividend, the dividend is produced when a successful hand is formed on any of the effective lines in a card game using the

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

trump cards, and the dividend is produced or a previously-produced dividend is changed when a maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and a predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines at least in a diagonal direction to the effective lines or in a direction perpendicular to the effective lines.

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium readable by a computer, with a program stored therein, in which the program works the computer provided in a game system as

a card deciding device for deciding a plurality of cards displayed on a game screen in a matrix,

a betting device for setting a number of lines of a plurality of lines formed by the cards arranged in a predetermined direction on the game screen, each of the set lines being an effective line, the number of effective lines being set depending on the value of a play which a player sets by operating the input device, the betting device increasing the number of effective lines as the play value increases, and

a dividend controlling device for controlling a dividend for the player according to a combination of the cards on any of the effective lines and a combination of the cards in a direction different from the direction of the effective lines, wherein

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

the effective lines are set in only one direction of either a vertical direction or a horizontal direction of the matrix, and

the dividend controlling device produces the dividend when a successful hand is formed on any of the effective lines in a card game using trump cards, and produces the dividend or a previously-produced dividend is changed when a maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and a predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines at least in a diagonal direction to the effective lines or in a direction perpendicular to the effective lines.

14. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the game controller is arranged to form the matrix as a two-dimensional matrix having a vertical direction and a horizontal direction and to set the effective lines only in the horizontal direction.

15. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 14, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to produce the dividend or change the previously-produced dividend when the maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and the predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the diagonal direction or in the vertical direction.

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

16. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the game controller is arranged to form the matrix as a two-dimensional matrix having a vertical direction and a horizontal direction, and set the effective lines only in the vertical direction.

17. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 16, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to produce the dividend or change the previously-produced dividend when the maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and the predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the diagonal direction or in the horizontal direction.

18. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to produce the dividend when a maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and a predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the diagonal direction or in the direction perpendicular to the effective lines.

19. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to change the previously-

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

produced dividend when the maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and the predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the diagonal direction or in the direction perpendicular to the effective lines, the previously-produced dividend being produced based on a successful hand being formed on one or more of the effective lines.

20. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 19, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to increase the previously-produced dividend when the maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and the predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the diagonal direction or in the direction perpendicular to the effective lines.

21. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to produce the dividend or change the previously produced dividend when the maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and the predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the diagonal direction.

22. (Previously Presented) The game system according to Claim 1, wherein the dividend controlling device is arranged to produce the dividend or

Docket No. F-7249

Ser. No. 10/018,408

change the previously produced dividend when the maximum number of the effective lines in the matrix are selected and the predetermined combination is formed by the cards on the maximum number of the effective lines in the direction perpendicular to the direction of the effective lines.

23. (Previously Presented) The game controlling method according to Claim 12, wherein the matrix is formed as a two-dimensional matrix having a vertical direction and a horizontal direction and the effective lines are set only in the horizontal direction.

24. (Previously Presented) The storage medium according to Claim 13, wherein the matrix is formed as a two-dimensional matrix having a vertical direction and a horizontal direction and the effective lines are set only in the horizontal direction.